THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai.—Sir, from the Statement of Objects and Reasons published in the Gazette, it will be seen that a few amendments are proposed for the purpose of extending two of the provisions of the existing Criminal Procedure Code. The extension is necessitated by the practical inconvenience experienced by the Police and the Forest departments in conducting prosecutions. At present, among Police Officers, Inspectors alone are competent to conduct the prosecution of cases before Magistrates. Cases in charge of one Inspector are often posted before different Magistrates at one and the same time, with the obvious consequence that, in all but one, the interests of the prosecution suffer. It is proposed, therefore, to enable Government to invest any class of Police Officers with the power to conduct prosecutions. The other amendment is to meet similar administrative convenience in the Forest department. I beg to commend the amendments for the acceptance of the Council.

Seconded by Mr. N. Subramania Iyer.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvila.—Sir, at this stage of the Bill, I have only to suggest, for the consideration of the Select Committee that may be appointed, that it would be better in the amendment to Section 372, to specifically declare that the discretion of Government about the class of Police Officers to be entrusted with prosecution duties, will not travel below the grade of Head Constables. The existing Regulation fixes the lowest grade as that of Police Inspector. The correspondence with the Superintendent of Police referred to in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, as well as the statement of the Mover on the 19th Vycausy 1083 when asking for permission to introduce the Bill, shows that the present intention of Government is to descend to the grade of Head Constables only, and it may be desirable to prevent the public from misunderstanding the intention of the legislature as to the discretion proposed in the wording of the Bill descending even below that grade.

The Council having then affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. A. M. Muthunayagom Pillai proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. K. K. Kuruvila, A. J. Vieyra and the Mover, to report within two months.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

Mr. N. Subramania Iyer.—In the absence of my learned friend, Mr. Sankara Menon, who has written to say that he is unable to attend today's meeting, I have been asked to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Weights and Measures Bill. But before doing so, I beg leave to make a few preliminary observations. You are of course aware that a Bill to regulate Weights and Measures was introduced into this Council as far back as November 1901, corresponding to Vrischigom 1077. A reference to the Proceedings of the Council dated 30th November 1901, will show that there was a full and interesting discussion on many important points, the chief of them being the determination of the primary standards. However, that Bill did not become law and it has become necessary to frame another.

It is a matter for consideration whether opportunity should not now be taken to fully thresh out the question of standards, and I am sure you will kindly pardon me if I say a few words on that question. The fixing of primary standards lies at the basis of the regulation of weights and measures. All the authorised weights and measures in a country are based on these standards and bear definite relations of equivalence to them. And it is with reference to these standards that our weights and measures have to be checked and verified. The ultimate standards fixed

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